

to really booming commercial developments attracting gaming interests from all over the region and contributing mightily to the economy in north Louisiana.

I personally say many thanks to his family—his wife Mary Ruth Carter Waggonner, his two children, Carol and David, and his three grandchildren—for the contributions they made supporting a man through many careers in public service in Louisiana. David is a personal friend and I know him and his son, Peter, are mourning the loss of their father and grandfather. He was a man of tremendous faith. He made Louisiana proud. He served us with distinction and with honor. He will be remembered as a very distinguished and dignified leader for our State, particularly north Louisiana.

Joe Waggonner was a straightforward, straight-thinking man from Plain Dealing, LA. He was a graduate of Louisiana Tech University and was very proud of his alma mater and very proud to call Plain Dealing home. His leadership and friendship will be missed.

CHIP

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, in this Chamber, we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program and passed it by a big majority, passed it bipartisanship, when almost two dozen Republicans joined, I believe, all the Senate Democrats in passing a program that has worked for 10 years.

I was in the House of Representatives when we initially wrote the Children's Health Insurance Program. It was written by a Democratic President, with a Republican House and a Republican Senate. It has worked splendidly for the last 10 years. It has, in fact, provided health insurance for literally millions and millions of American middle-class families—families making a little bit too much to qualify for Medicaid but families either not earning quite enough to buy insurance or not working in a place that offers insurance at a decent, reasonable rate. We know the children who are in the Children's Health Insurance Program are sons and daughters of working parents—again, working parents overwhelmingly making between about \$20,000 and \$50,000 a year.

The Senate passed the Children's Health Insurance Program expansion, which would have meant, in addition to the 6.6 million children in our country receiving health insurance under the Children's Health Insurance Program today, it would have added about another 4 million American children. About 200,000 children in my State—from Ashtabula to Hamilton, from Wauseon to Marietta—now receive coverage under the Children's Health Insurance Program. This would have added tens of thousands more to the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Unfortunately, a couple weeks ago, the President of the United States de-

cided to veto this legislation even though it passed with more than four dozen Republican votes in the House joining almost every Democrat and passed with almost two dozen Republican votes in the Senate.

I wish the President, before he vetoed this legislation, had done what a lot of us did. I know the Presiding Officer from Missouri has done this. So many of us have talked to families in our States. I have talked to families in Lima and in Canfield and in Columbus and in Dublin and in Springfield about what the Children's Health Insurance Program means to them.

Eleven-year-old Tanner Stainbrook of Toledo has cystic fibrosis. Both of his parents work. They are playing by the rules, working hard, and paying their taxes. But without CHIP, without the Children's Health Insurance Program, Tanner cannot get the care he needs.

Seth Novak is a 3-year-old boy who lives in Lebanon, OH, down in the southwest corner of the State near Cincinnati. Seth has Down's syndrome and needs the Children's Health Insurance Program to help him stay healthy. Again, his parents are working, but they simply cannot get the insurance, in part, as with many of these children, because of a preexisting condition and also because of the finances the family faces and the lack of health coverage.

Emily Danko of Columbus also has Down's syndrome. Without CHIP, Emily has no health insurance.

I wish the President had talked to the Stainbrook family and the Novak family and the Danko family and talked to them about their situations. I am not sure he would have vetoed this bill if he had done that.

Unfortunately, the President made the decision to veto this bill. When he did, he mentioned several things. I would like to briefly touch on what he said and what the truth really is.

The President of the United States said this will result in all kinds of families shifting their children from private health insurance to Government health insurance. Were it so that all those families he talks about had private health insurance—if they all had private health insurance—we would not be concerned about this Children's Health Insurance Program. But the fact is, most of these families—the overwhelming majority of these families—who will be on this Children's Health Insurance Program expansion are not getting private insurance or they are getting very inadequate private insurance.

The President said families making up to \$80,000 a year could get this insurance. That is patently untrue. If a State wants to do that, they have to apply to the Federal Government, and the President has already said no to the State of New York. He could say no to other States. So that is clearly, simply not true.

The President also said the Children's Health Insurance Program is

just too expensive—a \$7 billion-a-year increase over the next 5 years; \$7 billion a year to insure 4 million children a year; \$7 billion a year contrasted with what we spend on the war in Iraq: \$2.5 billion a week; \$7 billion a year for 4 million children versus \$2.5 billion and climbing per week for a war we never should have been in, a civil war the President continues to immerse our Nation in, with no plan to end.

The last thing the President said is this program is socialized medicine, that we are going down the path of socialized medicine. The President forgets to say he and many Members of Congress get health care from Bethesda—go out to Bethesda and get their health care, with Government doctors taking care of Members of Congress and the President.

The President also forgets to mention that when he calls it socialized medicine, that, in fact, this legislation was supported bipartisanship 10 years ago in a Republican House, Republican Senate, and with a Democratic President—hardly socialized medicine supported by that many conservative Republicans back then and today. This legislation is supported by 68 Senators, including 18 Republicans; is supported by 43 Governors, including 16 Republicans; is supported by more than 270 organizations, representing millions of Americans.

The beauty of this legislation is for 10 years it has worked for America's children. And 6.6 million children have insurance today because of the Children's Health Insurance Program. We can expand this program at the cost of about \$3.50 a day to cover a child through the Children's Health Insurance Program, and do that for 4 million children. It makes sense for our children, it makes sense for our communities, and it makes sense for our country.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE SANGMEISTER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great man, Representative George Sangmeister, a great servant of Illinois who passed away on October 9.

George served Illinois in more ways than anyone I know; his was a lifetime of dedicated public work, and honesty. I had the good fortune to work as a staff lawyer in the Illinois State Senate when George was serving there. He was kind and determined, and these traits have shown through his work, his family life, and his long battle with leukemia.

Not surprisingly, George came from a family of dedicated Illinoisans. His father was mayor of Frankfort from 1923 to 1955 and a great political influence on his son. George attended Joliet Junior College before entering the military to serve in the Korean war. He was always proud of his service, and it informed many of his initiatives. He always took time to pay tribute to our warriors and veterans.

After serving in the Korean war, George attended Elmhurst College and earned a law degree from John Marshall Law School. He spent some time in private practice, but was always active in the public realm. He was a volunteer for President Kennedy's 1960 election and eventually returned fulltime to his public service origins.

George started as a magistrate for Will County and then served as the county's district attorney. In 1972, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives and then to the Illinois Senate in 1976.

George was a natural. One of his peers recently noted that "George was one of those individuals who had an unbelievable capability of bringing parties together." He was direct yet pleasant; he would stick to his position but never alienated those who disagreed. George was widely known as a man of his word, and a true statesman—traits that are in short supply in too many places.

His integrity and talent led him to become a powerful leader in the State senate, and a respected Member of the House of Representatives. He served three terms in the House from 1988 to 1994, and I was again privileged to work with him during those historical years.

As the cold war wound down, his attentions turned increasingly to our environment, our children, and our ability to adjust to a new world order. He joined me in pushing to ensure that newly independent nations such as Lithuania would be guaranteed an opportunity to prosper. George was keenly aware of our Nation's freedom, independence and our history. He regularly addressed his colleagues on Independence Day, rising to remind us all of our political origins and the things we must be grateful for.

He spoke often on veterans' affairs, the environment, education, and on issues that directly impacted his constituents in Illinois. He was unmovable when it came to fiercely fighting for the constituents that he had served for so many years and in so many ways. Frustrated with national politics, George returned to private practice in 1995, after more than 30 years in public service.

George is survived by his wife Doris, their children George and Kimberly, and four grandchildren. I have expressed my condolences to them in person and assure them now that George's unblemished reputation and service will be long remembered.

George was a great man and a great friend, and I feel that nothing is more fitting than to conclude his presence in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD with his own words. They are indicative of a man who maintained his idealism and values throughout life's trials—a man unafraid to speak boldly during dramatic times.

We should begin to worry about educating brilliant children so that America can face the next challenge. Having served in the U.S. Army myself, I strongly believe that na-

tional security should be a top priority for the Federal Government. But national security includes having a strong economy and a healthy, well-educated work force . . . What is more important than educating our kids and preserving our environment? . . . As a people, we were not defeated by Pearl Harbor or Watergate or Irangate, and we will survive. But, we must be ever vigilant against the abuse and arrogance of power, whether it be on Wall Street or on Main Street—whether it be by big business or by big government. To fail in our vigilance would mean the death of "power people." And so, let us, as a united people, "highly resolve that this Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SEAMAN APPRENTICE SHAYNA ANN SCHNELL

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young sailor from Tell City. Shayna Ann Schnell, 19 years old, died on October 1 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from injuries she received in a vehicle accident several days earlier. With her entire life before her, Shayna risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Shayna was a lifelong Hoosier, growing up in Dubois and Perry counties. Shayna graduated Perry Central High School in 2006 and joined the Navy later that year. After completing basic training in Great Lakes, IL, Shayna was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. Her hard work earned her an assignment as a master-at-arms with the Naval Security Force Bahrain in the United Arab Emirates.

Shayna died while serving her country by supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. She is survived by her mother and stepfather, Suzanne and Vernon Silacci; her father and stepmother, Doug and Peggy Schnell; her sister Nicole; and her brothers Trent and Tyler, who is also serving his country in the Navy. Shayna was known for her dedication to her family and her love of country. Today and always, she will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice she made while dutifully serving her country.

Today, I join Shayna's family and friends in mourning her death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example she set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is her courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Shayna, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Shayna's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we

cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Shayna's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Shayna Schnell in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for her service to this country and for her profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Shayna's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Shayna.

CAPTAIN SCOTT N. SHIMP

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Army CPT Scott Shimp of Bayard, NE.

Captain Shimp's love for the military was obvious to his mother, who said "even when he was little, he wanted to be a soldier, running around in his camouflage." He graduated from Bayard High School in 1998 as the salutatorian of his class. He was also quite active in many activities: football, wrestling, 21st Century Singers, choir, and the National Honor Society. In addition, Captain Shimp received his Eagle Scout Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Boy Scouts of America, in 1998. Upon his graduation from high school, he pursued his dream of becoming a pilot by enrolling in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 2002.

Following his commission as a second lieutenant, Captain Shimp served two tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I and III. After graduating from the Aviation Captain's Career Course at Fort Rucker, AL, he reported to Company C, 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, at Fort Campbell, KY, to serve as company commander.

A highly decorated soldier, Captain Shimp's leadership qualities were unmistakable. He was a rare example in the 101st Airborne Division, as evidenced by taking over a command soon after graduating from the Aviation Captain's Career Course, thereby demonstrating the respect and trust afforded him by his superiors. On September 11, 2007, Captain Shimp, along with two crew members, passed away when the Black Hawk helicopter he was piloting during a training exercise crashed due to fog near the town of Skyline, AL. He was 28 years old.